



# **SFBPC "Currents"**



## **A Publication of the Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council**

*The SFBPC is an advisory committee to the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose of the SFBPC is to provide advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the Service Director on aquatic resource conservation issues and to enhance partnerships among industry, constituency groups, and government.*

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## **SFBPC Happenings**

### **National Fish Habitat Initiative Featured at DOI Partnership Gathering**

Department of the Interior (DOI) "family" members, including Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management and Budget, received an introduction to the National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) in October during a meeting in Maine of the DOI's "4Cs Partnership and Collaborative Action Team." The NFHI PowerPoint presentation was given during a reception held for the team and aroused interest and questions from attendees. Other presentations at the reception carried related themes from Maine partners whose work focuses on fish and fish habitat, such as the Penobscot River Restoration Project. The 4Cs team meeting brought together staff involved in partnerships from across Interior agencies plus representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and National Marine Fisheries Service. Former SFBPC coordinator Laury Parramore, who now serves as Partnerships Project Officer for the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Division of Conservation Partnerships, gave the NFHI presentation, which is available for use by SFBPC members and others by e-mailing her at [laury\\_parramore@fws.gov](mailto:laury_parramore@fws.gov).

### **SFBPC Appointments Still Pending**

Appointments for the upcoming term of the SFBPC are still being reviewed by DOI staff. October was a busy month at DOI, but the Council membership review has been progressing steadily. Appointment announcements, while not imminent, are expected soon. Updates on the Council status will appear in future editions of SFBPC Currents. Stay tuned!!!

## **Eye on the Media**

*From The Washington Post; Saturday,  
November 13, 2004*

### **'Radical Center' Tries To Shield Ranch Land**

Diverse Interests Unite Behind Common Goals  
By Terry Greene Sterling; Page A03  
Special to The Washington Post

DOUGLAS, Ariz. -- William McDonald urged his quarter horse through a boulder-strewn canyon, in the heart of his 20,000-acre cattle ranch in southeastern Arizona. A thorny mesquite bush scraped his leather chaps, interrupting the steady rhythm of hooves striking lava rock and cinnamon-colored clay.

McDonald, 52, a fifth-generation rancher, stopped and smiled from beneath his broad cowboy hat. A golden sea of grass was spread before him, and he could see his land healing, the vegetation restoring itself.

A year earlier, this section of McDonald's ranch land, known as "Cowboy Flat," had been intentionally set ablaze as part of a controversial 46,000-acre prescribed burn intended to restore an ecosystem damaged by a century of fire suppression and grazing.

Studying the restorative effects of fire is one of several ecological projects designed by the nonprofit Malpai Borderlands Group, which was founded in 1994 by McDonald and other local ranchers who felt threatened by government regulation and widespread subdivision of Arizona rangeland. The group is in the vanguard of a growing movement in the West -- the formation of rancher-based land trusts that buy and hold conservation easements to protect ranch land from development. Full story at:  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A46433-2004Nov12?language=printer>

*From the PR Newswire; Monday, November  
8, 2004*

### **Last Year's Attendance Was Up By as Much as 44 Percent as Shows Transform from Product Showcases to Venues for Family Entertainment**

PR Newswire

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Nov. 8 /PRNewswire/ -- Attendance at many of last winter's major boat and outdoor-sports shows was up significantly over

previous years. For example, the Atlantic City International Power Boat Show increased 27 percent, New York National Boat Show was up 14 percent, St. Louis Boat & Sports Show jumped 31 percent, San Diego Boat Show was up 10 percent, and the Nashville Boat & Sports Show was up 44 percent.

"Boat and outdoor-sports shows represent one of the best family entertainment values in America," said Bruce Matthews, president of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF). "If last winter's attendance is any indication, then this year promises to be even better. We're seeing tremendous interest among families that go to the shows to escape the winter blues and explore the possibilities of boat-ownership and prepare for spring fishing." Full story at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/11-08-2004/0002397202&EDATE=>

*From The Baltimore Sun; Monday,  
November 8, 2004*

### **Maryland groups support limits on menhaden catch in bay**

*Va. fish processor taking millions from Chesapeake*  
By Rona Kobell

Maryland environmentalists and recreational anglers are urging fisheries regulators to rein in a Virginia processing plant that is scooping millions of menhaden from the Chesapeake Bay.

The Marylanders say Omega Protein is taking so many of the oily little filter-feeders out of the bay for its products that rockfish, which usually feed on menhaden, are starving to death. They are hoping that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which meets tomorrow in New Hampshire to take up the matter, will place catch limits on the company.

"We're simply asking that some type of restriction be placed on the current fishery so that no more damage is done while we try to identify what the problems are and how to correct them," said Sherman Baynard, fisheries chairman for the state's Coastal Conservation Association, a recreational fishing group. Full story at:  
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.menhaden08nov08.1.4671840.print.story?coll=bal-home-headlines>

*From The New York Times, Week in Review;  
Sunday, November 7, 2004*

### **A Right to Hunt, Fish and Trick Bears**

By Sarah Kershaw

ON Tuesday, rural Americans spoke loudly about a lot of things - gay marriage (against), Democrats (against, mostly) and, in four states anyway, hunting, fishing, trapping and baiting bears (definitely for).

Nationally, this election may become known as the year of the Republican. But in Alaska and Maine, it was also the year of the black bear hunter; and in Louisiana, the winners were the deer, dove and wild turkey hunter and the speckled trout and red fish angler. Full story at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/07/weekinreview/07bigp.html?pagewanted=print&position=>

*From The Charlotte Observer; Thursday,  
November 4, 2004*

### **Judge sides with sportfishing groups**

By Tom Higgins

Outer Banks sportfishing groups, and other parties, have prevailed in a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Judge Roy C. Lambeth ruled in U.S. District Court in Washington on Monday "the Fish and Wildlife Service had insufficient grounds when it declared the Outer Banks of North Carolina to be 'critical habitat' for the over-wintering population of the endangered Piping Plover." Full story at:

<http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/sports/outdoors/10094209.htm?template=contentModules/printstory.jsp>

*\*Opinions expressed in news stories are those of the writers and media outlets from which the stories originated, not those of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council.*

## **On the Hill**

November 15, 2004

### **Congress Set to Return to Hash Out Spending**

By Carl Hulse

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 - The old Congress returns to a new Washington on Tuesday to face unfinished spending bills and other lingering legislation in an atmosphere significantly altered by the Nov. 2 elections.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/15/politics/15lame.html?pagewanted=print&position=>

## **FWS/DOI News**

### **NASCAR Race Dedicated to the National Wildlife Refuge System**

The Bass Pro Shops MBNA Atlanta 500 NASCAR race on Sunday, October 31, was dedicated to the National Wildlife Refuge System. Steve Williams, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency responsible for managing the wildlife refuges, presented a massive commemorative trophy to race winner Jimmie Johnson.

<http://news.fws.gov/NewsReleases/R9/0995440B-9683-B023-118F484F5A738858.html>

### **Deputy Secretary Griles Signs Agreement with Boat Owners Association of the United States to Protect Coral Reefs, Seabed Grasses**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.-Deputy Secretary of the Interior Steve Griles signed an agreement today with the Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatU.S.) to work together to protect coral reefs, seagrass beds and other important marine habitat. BoatU.S. vice president, Michael G. Sciulla joined Griles in signing the agreement following the Boating Writers International Annual Meeting at the Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show. Full news release at: <http://www.doi.gov/news/041029a>

## **SCALING UP --- FACT ON FISHERIES**

Science refined. The Fisheries Conservation Genetics Laboratory in Alaska recently analyzed tissue samples taken from chum salmon harvested by subsistence users below the Yukon River's confluence with the Tanana River. Genetic analysis demonstrated that non-Tanana River fish migrated

through the Yukon River study area earlier than those that would later branch off into the Tanana before continuing their journeys upstream. This analysis also showed that the different populations actually tended to follow opposite banks of the river! The study hints that we might some day be able to optimize fishing opportunities, while protecting genetically distinct populations, by focusing not only upon how many fish are harvested, but on when - - and even on which side of a river - - that harvest takes place.

## **Current FWS Federal Register Notices**

To review current FWS notices and/or proposed rules open for comment, visit the FWS Office of Policy and Directives Management Federal Register web page: <http://policy.fws.gov/frsystem/opensdocs.cfm>

## **Calendar / Upcoming Meetings**

November 30-December 3, 2004  
SFBPC FWS Fisheries Program Evaluation  
Workgroup  
New Orleans, Louisiana

December 7-9, 2004  
IAFWA Summit on Conservation Education  
Shepherdstown, West Virginia  
[http://www.iafwa.org/2004\\_conservation\\_summit.htm](http://www.iafwa.org/2004_conservation_summit.htm)

December 12-15, 2004  
Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/midwest2004/>

January 11, 2004  
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Board Meeting  
San Diego, California

March 13-16, 2005  
2005 International Boating & Water Safety Summit  
Newport Beach, California  
<http://www.safeboatingcouncil.org/summit/summitmain.htm>

March 16-20, 2005  
70th North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference  
Crystal Gateway Marriott  
Arlington, Virginia  
<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/pages/confinfoONLINE.html>

**For more information of the Sport  
Fishing and Boating Partnership Council  
or for a web version of this newsletter,  
visit the SFBPC homepage at  
<http://sfbpc.fws.gov>**

**or**

**contact SFBPC Coordinator Doug Hobbs  
at [doug\\_hobbs@fws.gov](mailto:doug_hobbs@fws.gov)**

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